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ALGERINE CAPTIVES.

[What may be termed by some a spirit of liberality and generosity in congress, in providing for the wants of those of her citizens, who, from the calamities incidental to war, have suffered severe deprivations, and are still suffering under the signs of adversity, is by us considered no more than an act of justice and a duty which they are imperiously called upon to perform. It is, therefore, with pleasure that we insert the following communication, and hope it may meet attention. We should be glad to see more of that generous enthusiasm which animated an Ogle, in his defence of the claims of Thompson, pervade our national councils, and whatever its members may think to the contrary, it will lose them no popularity with their constituents.]

MR. EDITOR,

While the national legislature are signaling themselves by acts of humanity, and retrieving the character of the nation, which had long been stigmatized for want of gratitude to the officers and soldiers of the revolutionary war, is it not surprising that it has not occurred to them that there are other sufferers who have an equal claim to the beneficence of their country? I mean those few surviving victims of our independence, who were captured by the Algerines, in July and August, 1785, some of whom did not return to their country until 1797, and the descendants of those who died in captivity, who are now in indigence in consequence of the calamities of their country, which occasioned their fathers' slavery and untimely death.

Those who were captured in 1793, likewise deserve commiseration, but in a less degree, for they were provided with the necessaries of life, almost immediately; not so the victims of 1785. Of the former, many of them are living, of the latter, probably not more than four; but the families of many of those who died in Algiers, and since their return, are in indigence. I will enumerate two, captain Zecheus Coffin, of Nantucket, who died in Algiers, and captain Isaac Stephens, who died since his return, and I believe, obtained some situation under government, but left his family wholly unprovided for. To go into the detail of all that we suffered during eleven years' captivity, would fill a large volume, which I pledge myself to lay before the public, at some future period, which will prove that we too have suffered hunger, thirst, hard labor, plague and

other diseases, without any consolation from our distant friends or support from our country, except for about three years, that Mr. Carmichael, our minister at Madrid, remitted to us a miserable pittance of 7½ cents per day, which was discontinued in September, 1799, and from that period to December, 1793, we did not receive one cent, but were abandoned to the mercy of our cruel taskmasters who fed us with three small black loaves per day, some horse beans and olives of the worst quality.

The case of James Harnett, a youth of about 16, who was taken in the same vessels that I was, in 1785, which was the first American vessel that the Algerines captured, claims particular attention. On his arrival in Algiers, he was sent to the Dey's garden to work, on a complaint being lodged that the slaves had purloined some of the fruit intended for the Dey's table, the *hamadars*, accompanied by four ferocious moors came to the garden with the instruments of their cruelty, and bastinadoed the fourteen Christian slaves upon the soles of the feet, who were at work in it, poor Harnett was the first they seized and as he had never seen any thing of the sort before, he was under the impression that they were going to murder him, this visibly impaired his reason, for he was a very weak youth; not long after he was sent to hard labor, destitute of every resource, he daily gave signs of increasing insanity until the latter end of 1788, when he became outrageous and was confined in the mad house, in a small cell about six by four feet, chained by the leg with a chain just long enough to let him lay down on the hard stones, with nothing allowed him but three black loaves of bread a day. His more fortunate countrymen provided him with a bed and some clothing, but he would frequently destroy them: we likewise provided him with provisions, which sometimes he would eat voraciously and at other times throw at the bearer's head. In this state he remained until the 1st of July, 1793, his hair never having been cut, nor his beard shaved since his confinement, although many efforts were made to that effect, but he never would permit himself to be shaved, nor laterly to be cleaned or his clothes shifted, but at last he sunk under his afflictions human nature could bear no more, and was carried to the Spanish hospital in a dying condition; he survived, however, to the 13th of July, 1793. Before he expired he was entirely restored to his senses and permitted himself to be shaved, when for

squalid appearance would have drawn a tear from the most obdurate heart. Others suffered much, but he suffered most of all. God rest his soul!

This is not the imaginary tale of the inimitable Sterne; no sir! it is the melancholy history of an American captive, who was enslaved while sailing under the banners of his country! a tale which has made an impression upon my heart, which never will be effaced, and which ought to be engraven with a pen of adamant on the shield of our independence, whose victim he was; and which of us was not? In his last moments, while in the agonies of death, he grasped my hand and faintly said, "you have been my friend, God will reward you, let my parents know my fate"; and lifting his eyes to heaven, he sighed his last, and died without a groan, while the Genius of Liberty looked down and blushed!

In all the revolutionary war, show me a scene of horror equal to this, or to what many others suffered during eleven years captivity; and when we consider that some of those men had served during the revolution, and were twice immolated on board that Pandemonium, the New-Jersey prison-ship, at New York, surely we will allow that the survivors and the children of the deceased, deserved some commiseration, and as my motive is merely to serve the cause of humanity, without benefitting myself, I hope you will have the goodness to insert this faithful narrative, and by so doing you will oblige

One of the surviving captives of 1785.

SPANISH PATRIOTS, &c.

No. III.

The patriots of the South, even had they succeeded at this hour, in putting down the rule and tyranny of Ferdinand and their oppressors and establishing themselves as a sovereign people, would not, in our opinion, have accomplished even the one half of what is contemplated or desired by this revolution. Their having declared in favor of a republican form of government in those provinces where their arms have been successful, manifests the inclination of following the example of their brethren of the North, and is a declaration of their considering the government of the United States as one most fitted for the happiness of man and the enjoyment of civil liberty. Thus far we will grant that they have shewn a spirit of independence and broken down one important barrier against their success; the discarding of titles and nobility, overthrowing a long line of feudal superstition and bigotry, and the sinking all the tyranny of ancestry and blood in the declaration of equal rights, levels at a blow one of the hydras which fetter the human understand-

ing and makes it passive to the views and encroachments of despotism.

It may be asked, however, how could they do otherwise than approve and pursue a system or form of government which has been attended with such signal success by the sister states of the North, and which, in the fortieth year of their independence, gave them not only sufficient strength to oppose and defy their ancient enemy and tyrans, and to grapple with her with that success as to enforce their rights and even conquer a peace when she was better prepared for war than at any former period of her history. We shall reply to this by allowing to the leaders of this southern revolution more virtue than is always to be found in the bosoms of those who place themselves foremost to overthrow old governments and establish new ones. They have, in this instance, evinced not a selfish ambition for personal aggrandizement and authority, by desking themselves with new fangled titles, and establishing a rising despotism on the ruins of the old one; but a noble and magnanimous desire of giving to the human understanding and to mental and bodily excellence all those advantages which the God of nature intended should flow from them.

In this conduct of the leaders of the patriot cause we are happy to testify our approbation, and although we are not sanguine, or rather visionary enough to wish to see the United States engaged on their side as an ally, and should consider it a step the most impolitic and fraught with the most dangerous consequences, yet we are too just not to admit to these champions for the rights of man all the virtues and honor which they are entitled to. Granting to them, therefore, that they have broken down one fence, and that a most important one towards the overthrow of despotism and the establishment of liberty; yet there is another of a mighty strength which must be razed to the foundation and annihilated as if it never had existed, before their march towards the independence of a free government can be attended with success; or the blessings which spring from general suffrage and a well organized republic be felt or enjoyed by the community it is intended to govern.

Need we repeat again that this all omnipotent barrier against social freedom and the liberty of man under any government, is the despotism maintained over conscience, and the binding the human will to the belief of any one particular dogma of religious worship, to which the common understanding of the subject may revolt, or which even if the force of long habit and education may have rendered artificially genial, may tend to inculcate prejudices which are diametrical

by variance with liberality of thought, or those immutable truths which nature throughout all her works manifests as the mysterious blessings of a Divinity towards the human species.

Should the domination of any religion be engrafted on the constitution of a government aiming to be free, it would be, in fact, inoculating the very body of liberty with the morbid essence of its dissolution. The liberty of a people making laws for themselves, as regards the machinery of government, is definable, and they are governed in enacting those laws by antecedent events which may be denominated experience, and which point out the beneficial effects of one system and the injurious results of another; but the body or majority of the people voting or establishing the forms and mysteries of religious worship, and legislating for the adoration of a Deity, incomprehensible and undefinable, is confining that immaterial spirit derived from his unknown majesty, under trammels which debase the imagination, narrow the liberality of the heart, engender superstition and render the intellect a fit subject for any system of slavery which superior cunning may invent.

Under the despotism of ages which the conscience of the Spanish subjects of both old and new Spain have labored, can we expect a regeneration so wonderful as to see the chains of the Romish church broken into fragments without the demolishing of morality at one and the same moment? Can we expect to see Catholicism made a free religion whose very creed denies the freedom of investigation? Can we expect to see religious tolerance among a people who, from education and a prejudice, strong as nature itself, have beheld, for centuries, a heretic as one of the damned; and have considered an apostate to their national faith with eyes of horror and abomination? Or can we expect to see a liberal and just republic existing under the fetters and enslavements of the Roman pontiff? Or, from a republic founded on such contradictions, what are we to look for, or of what materials shall be its citizens? and how long shall be its durability? These are questions and considerations which must stagger the firmest friends of the Southern patriots. They have, we must confess, a great influence with us while looking on their contest, admiring their exertions and perseverance, and wishing them success; and would operate to withhold us, however ardently we may feel for the justice of their cause, from allying ourselves too nearly with a people who have a greater revolution to perform over the human intellect than over the arms of their persecutors before they can ever be considered free and fitted for a republic; and who must have far greater

virtue and moderation than they have yet displayed, if they effect it. They may, and must by the order of things, if they persevere, triumph over the tyranny of Spain; but what may be their future government, or what events may grow out of their emancipation from the injustice and despotism of the Peninsula are yet in the womb of time: and it is not for a politician of the present day to read a history so hid in obscurity, and so doubtful. They may become a brave, a generous and a wise people, or they may be the scourge of the western world, and the rock on which even our own liberties may be lost.

GALVEZTON AND AMELIA.

The following are the most important documents transmitted to congress by the president of the United States, in obedience to a resolution of the house of representatives calling on him for information relative to Galvezton and Amelia island. We should have given the documents in full if our limits would have permitted without excluding other matter of more importance. It is believed, however, that those we insert will be found amply sufficient to give a general view of the subject; and also, one sufficiently particular to satisfy the inquirer.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

Selections from the documents transmitted to the house of Representatives of the United States by the President.

Extract of a letter from Beverly Chew, Esq. Collector at New Orleans, to Mr. Crawford, Secretary of the Treasury, dated

Collector's Office, New-Orleans, August 1, 1817.

"As it is your wish that every attempt to evade the provisions of the existing laws should be communicated to the Department, accompanied by suggestions of the measures necessary to repress the evil, I deem it my duty to state, that the most shameful violations of the slave act, as well as our revenue laws continue to be practiced, with impunity, by a motley mixture of freebooters and smugglers, at Galvezton, under the Mexican flag; and being, in reality, little else than the re-establishment of the Barrataria band, removed somewhat more out of the reach of justice; and unless the officers of the customs are provided with more effectual means for the enforcement of the laws, the Treasury must suffer incalculably. To give you a more correct idea of this establishment, it will be necessary to be a little prolix, which I beg you will excuse. Galvezton is a small island or sand bar, situate in the bay of St. Bernard, on the coast of Texas, about ninety miles to the west of the Sabine, within the jurisdictional limits claimed by the United States, in virtue of the cession of Louisiana to them, by France. The establishment was recently made there by a commodore Aury, with a few small schooners from Aux Cayes, manned, in a great measure, with refugees from Barrataria, and mul-

lattoes. This establishment was reinforced by a few more men from different points of the coast of Louisiana, the most efficient part of them being principally mariners (Frenchmen or Italians,) who have been hanging loose upon society in and about New Orleans, in greater or smaller numbers, ever since the breaking up of the establishment at Barrataria. Colonel Perry commanded one party, of about eighty or ninety men of this new community, who had been enlisted principally as soldiers, within our jurisdiction; and Mr. Herera, coming with a few followers from New Orleans brought up the rear, and then announced the establishment to the world, by a proclamation, attested by a Frenchman of the name of Morin, very recently a bankrupt auctioneer in New Orleans, as Secretary of State. From this new station, fed and drawing all its resources from New Orleans, and keeping up a regular intelligence, through a variety of channels, with their friends here, an active system of plunder was commenced on the high seas, chiefly of Spanish property, but often without much concern as to the national character, particularly when money was in question. The captures made by their numerous cruisers, (many owned by citizens of the United States,) were condemned by a pretended court of admiralty there, as prizes, and the cargoes introduced into this state, principally in a clandestine manner. The vessels thus condemned have generally come here under new names, and with the Mexican flag. Some of them have been detained by the United States naval force, for hovering in our waters, and others have been libelled for restitution, by the Spanish consul, in behalf of the original owners, and though several trials have come on before the honorable the U. S. district court for the district of Louisiana, and the claimants have never been able to produce proof of the government of Galveston having been authorized by the Mexican republic; and restitution has been decreed in several instances. There is no evidence of the establishment having been made or sanctioned by, or connected with, a Mexican republic, if one be now existing, and the presumption of such an actual establishment, under such authority, is strongly repelled by the illegal and piratical character of the establishment, and its ambulatory nature. It is not only of very recent origin, but is clothed with no character of permanency; for it was abandoned about the 5th of April, and transferred to Matagorda, leaving at Galveston only an advice boat, to advertise such privateers and prizes which might arrive there, of the spot on which they had fixed their new residence. Some days after the abandonment of Galveston, several privateers arrived there, and among the rest the General Artigas, commanded by one G. Champlin, of New-York, with two schooners, her prizes, the Patronila, with one hundred and seventy-four slaves; and also a Spanish and Portuguese vessel, and the American schooner Evening Post, of New York, Calvin Williams, master; prizes to the —, captain Maurice Nicholas Jolly.

Among the most conspicuous characters who happened to be then at Galveston, were many of the most notorious offenders against our laws, who had so lately been indulged with a remission of the punishment, who, so far from gratefully availing themselves of the lenity of the government to return to, or commence an orderly and honest life seem to have regarded its indulgence almost as an encouragement to the renewal of their of-

fences. You will readily perceive I allude to the Barratarians, among whom the Lafittes may be classed foremost, and most actively engaged in the Galveston trade, and owners of several cruisers under the Mexican flag. Many of our citizens are equally guilty, and are universally known to be owners of the same kind of vessels. A number of these characters, being at Galveston after the abandonment, readily saw the advantages that would result in the re-establishment of a government at that place, its situation, so immediately in the vicinity of our settlements, being much preferable to Matagorda, their views being entirely confined to introducing their captures into this state; accordingly a meeting was called on the 15th of April, and it was resolved to re-establish the government, and a true copy of their deliberations you have enclosed. I can vouch for the correctness of the copy, having received it from a person of undoubted veracity; and thus, without even the semblance of authority from the Mexican republic, they immediately proceeded to condemn vessels and cargoes as good prizes, and to introduce them into this port, and among the rest the cargo of the Evening Post. It was sometime before this was known here, great pains having been taken to keep it secret. Since it has been known I have felt it my duty to report all vessels and cargoes which have arrived here from Galveston, to the district attorney, who had them arrested under the Spanish treaty; but owing to the unfortunate absence of the judge, no decision can be had thereon. These steps of the officers of the port have irritated the Barratarian gentlemen and their connexions to a high degree, and representations filled with falsehoods will probably be made against them, particularly on the score of enmity to the patriot cause. As well might a man be accused of being an enemy to personal liberty, who arrests and confines a robber, as that the officers of the port of New Orleans should be accused of being unfriendly to the revolution of the Spanish provinces, because they have attempted to prevent a lawless establishment at Galveston from violating the laws. The prizes made by the privateers under the Mexican flag, are to a very large amount of merchandize, such as jewelry, laces, silks, linnen, britanias, muslin, seersuckers, calicoes, &c. &c. all of which are repacked in small bales of convenient size for transportation on mules, and the greatest part introduced clandestinely. Other articles, such as iron, nails, tallow, leather, glassware, crockery, cordage, beef, &c. are brought here in their prizes. It is stated, and universally believed, that captain Champlin sold the slaves captured in the Patronila and Enrequita, to the Lafittes, Sauvinet, and other speculators in this place, who have or will resell to the planters; and the facility afforded to smugglers by the innumerable inlets, are too obvious on a review of the map, to doubt that they either are or will be all introduced into this state, without the possibility of the officers of the revenue being able to prevent or punish them; more especially as a great portion of the population are disposed to countenance them in the violating our laws. A few days ago information having been given that one of our citizens had gone to the W. with a very considerable sum in specie, to purchase slaves for himself and two other planters, I determined to make an effort to arrest him on his return, and immediately pur-

chased a fine boat on account of the government, (which had been lately captured by a party I had sent on lake Ponchartrain, and condemned for a violation of the slave act) which I have sent under the command of an active and enterprising inspector, with a military guard of twelve men, and am in great hopes of his falling in with and capturing the party. I am persuaded you will approve of my not waiting for instructions, at the risk of seeing the laws violated with impunity, and I cannot but hope the government will see the necessity of giving instructions to the naval force on this station to prevent the re-establishment of Galveston, otherwise the bay will no longer be safe for any flag. Since they have been denied shelter in Port au Prince, they have no other asylum than Galveston. On the part of these pirates we have to contend with, we behold an extended and organized system of enterprize, of ingenuity, of indefatigability, and of audacity, favored by a variety of local advantages, and supported always by force of arms; and unless they be met by corresponding species of resistance, the results of the contest are of very simple calculation.

You will, I trust, see the necessity of either granting a certain number of revenue cutters of the description I have mentioned, or that the naval force on this station may be enjoined strictly to prevent these privateers from hovering in our waters, and violating our laws. It is a fact you may rely on, all the cruizes of these privateers commence and end at this port; they enter in distress, comply with the formalities of the law, and if they do not augment their force and renew their crews in port, they do it in our waters, and it is not in my power to prevent it.

Mr. Chew, collector at New-Orleans, to Mr.

Crawford.

Collector's office, New-Orleans, }

August 30th, 1817. }

SIR, In the communication which I had the honor to make to you, under date first instant, I gave such information respecting the establishment at Galveston as I had collected; since then the depositions of Messrs J. Ducoing and V. Garros (ex-judges of admiralty at that place and now here) have been taken, and I herewith transmit you copies, which go to substantiate the material fact stated by me, and I make no doubt but you will be satisfied of the correctness of the assertion, that the establishment of Galveston is nothing more or less than one of privateersmen, without even the shadow of a connexion with a Mexican republic if such a republic exists, and as such will not, I presume, be countenanced by the government of the United States. It has been reported to me, and from a source deserving credit, that the principal part of the force from Matagorda and Soto de la Marina, had returned to Galveston, and that two prizes have recently arrived, one a schooner with a full cargo, said to be 300 slaves (probably exaggerated), that a contagious fever having made its appearance among the slaves, the privateersmen, apprehensive of its communicating to the other prize, cut the cables, and sent the schooner adrift with the unfortunate beings on board! The other prize a ship, with 400 slaves, was lying there, and they have altogether about six hundred and fifty slaves on hand, all of whom are intended to be introduced in this state.

The United States brig Boxer, has sent in schooners, with thirty slaves on board captured in our waters, and the deputy collector of the district of Teche writes me he has seized fifteen, and was in pursuit of a larger number. At this moment I have sent two confidential inspectors to examine three plantations on this river near Baton Rouge, information having been given me, that one hundred had been purchased for the three at Galveston. This activity has occasioned some alarm, and I am informed (and place complete confidence in it) that the privateersmen and others interested have resolved to remove the slaves to the neighborhood of Sabine, build barracks, and keep them there during the winter, or till the purchasers appear, and leave the risk of introducing slaves to the planters, whose eagerness to procure them will induce them to run hazard. They imagine, that fixing themselves to the west of the Sabine, they will be without the jurisdiction of the United States; but I trust they will find their mistake only when the whole party will be seized.

In addition to the foregoing, I beg leave to refer you to the documents lately forwarded by commodore Patterson, to the honorable secretary of the navy, with the memorial of some of the most respectable merchants of this place, praying him to furnish convoy to protect their vessels trading with the Spanish ports, from the piratical cruisers who respect no flag when specie is in question.

I have lately sent an inspector of confidence, to examine La Fourche from the Mississippi to the sea, and he reports it as thickly settled for 80 miles from the river, has eight or ten feet water, and six feet on the bar, at the mouth or entrance in the sea, there is no obstacle whatever to craft entering it from the sea, and ascending to the Mississippi, and trading freely as high up as they please. I mentioned in my last the necessity of appointing an inspector for that place, if you decide not to have revenue cutters on this station. I cannot but repeat that I am firmly persuaded the measure is more necessary for this, than any other district in the United States. Bartholomew Lafon of this place (who acted as secretary to the meeting of 15th April, copy of deliberation forwarded in my last) is mentioned as the governor of the new establishment near the Sabine. Lafitte is now purchasing a large quantity of provisions, and the first cargo will soon sail, a copy of the manifest will accompany this or soon follow. These persons and a long list of others I could add, if necessary, have no other profession, occupation or mode of livelihood, than privateering and violating our laws, and openly threaten revenge against any officer of the revenue that may molest or impede their pursuits. They are now preparing a memorial to the department, with the double view to misrepresent the conduct of the officers of the port, and to obtain permission to introduce their illegally captured property, under the false pretext that they (the memorialists) have made heavy advances; the truth is, the only advances they allude to, is the equipment and fitting out privateers contrary to our laws. The exports from this place to Galveston and Matagorda have consisted principally of provisions; a cargo of arms was sent some time in the fall of the year, which have long since been given up as lost, and no return whatever can ever be expected from the Mexican government, from all present appearances. The imports (without

taking into consideration the large amount of goods introduced clandestinely) have been very large, as you will observe by the enclosed abstract of duties secured at his office on these importations.

I have felt it my duty to give you this information for your correct understanding the nature of the establishment at Galveston, and cannot but hope you will be pleased to instruct me explicitly how to act. My conduct has been governed by a sense of duty, and from a conviction of its propriety; if I have erred, I hope it will be ascribed to an honest zeal.

I am, &c. &c.

BEV. CHEW

P. S. The brig with provisions and lumber for the winter quarters of the slaves, attempted to clear to day; but, owing to the informality of her papers, it is postponed till Monday. I enclose a list of private armed Mexican and Venezuelan vessels now in port.

MR. CHEW TO MR. CRAWFORD.

Collector's Office, New Orleans,
October 17, 1817.

SIR—My communications of the first and thirtieth of August last, relative to the establishment of Galveston, and the numerous cruisers under the Mexican flag, that infest our waters, will, I trust, have reached your hands. I deem it my duty to trouble you once more upon the same subject, and to enclose copies of additional testimony of Mr. John Ducoing, late judge of admiralty, and of Mr. Raymond Espagnol, late secretary of state, which will, I trust, satisfactorily prove my assurances of the piratical nature of the establishment, and justify, in your opinion, the officers of this port, in the steps taken by them to put an end to it; for such, it appears, has been the effect of the measures adopted here. Late advices from that place state, that Aury and Champlin, with their privateers and prizes, said to be thirteen sail, evacuated the place, and it is believed they have steered their course for Amelia Island. Before their departure, they disposed of about three hundred Africans to the agents of some planters on this river; the remainder they have taken with them. The deputy collector of the district of Teche writes me, a large gang of Africans passed near the church of Attacapas on the night of the 14th ultimo, bound for the Mississippi. He heard of it too late to seize them. I have sent a confidential agent to watch the plantations of Joseph Erwin, James Still, and Christopher Adams, it being reported that the latter had been to Galveston, to purchase slaves for himself and others. I received, a few days ago, a letter from the person called commodore Aury, dated at sea, 31st July last, on board the privateer Mexican Congress, (late Calypso, of Baltimore) enclosing a duplicate of a letter, which it appears he had thought proper to write to me on the 28th of the same month, (the original of which has never come to hand.) In this letter he gives me a kind of official information, that it has been determined to abandon Galveston, and that he had taken with him the judge of the admiralty, the collector, and all his other constituted authorities, and that whatever may be done at the place, after that date, will be without his approbation or consent, and any clearances, or other official acts, at that

place, illegal. I have no doubt, however, but that a new establishment will be soon made there. The advantages are too great to be voluntarily abandoned by persons who have so long enjoyed the profits. Early in September two vessels, the Carmelite, belonging to B. Lafon, and the Franklin, belonging to J. B. Laforte, (both unregistered vessels, formerly prizes) cleared at this office for Laguna, but really bound to Galveston, with provisions and materials for erecting buildings. On their arrival they found the place deserted, and the Franklin has returned to this port with her outward cargo. By her accounts have been received that the Carmelite was laying there, and that Lafitte (who had been pardoned for the crimes committed at Barrataria) and Lafon had arrived there, with about forty other persons, and it is believed intended to form an establishment, and will, no doubt, soon replace the judge, and other authorities, carried off by Aury. Private armed vessels, under the Mexican flag, and one or two under that of Venezuela, continue to frequent this port, and uniformly report in distress, (one case only excepted) make protest, and obtain a certificate from the wardens of the port, that there is necessity to unlade their armament and heave down. They have thus been admitted to an entry, free of any charge, other than the fees to the officers of the customs, under the sixtieth section of the collection law. This course seems to have been adopted by my predecessor, and has been followed by me, in compliance with the instructions from the department of third July, 1815. These armed vessels being admitted, great care has been taken not to permit any violation of the acts of 5th June, 1794, and 3d March last, by augmenting their force, or enlisting American citizens; but, in defiance of every vigilance, on the part of the officers of the customs, they violate the law, not whilst they remain in port, but before they leave our waters. Nothing is easier, when the privateer is completely repaired and ready for sea, than to send both men and guns, if they need them, to Barrataria, or any other convenient place where the privateer repairs to, and takes them on board, and sails on a cruise, with an augmented force, to commit hostilities against the persons and property of a nation with whom the United States are at peace.

It is universally reported and believed, many of these vessels (under the Mexican flag, and commissioned by Aury) are owned by persons resident here, and enjoying the privileges of American citizens. At the end of the cruise, the same farce is played over again; and it may with truth be said, that each cruise commences and ends at this port. Attempts have been made to convict them, but as yet without success. They easily exculpate themselves. Witnesses, on their part, are never difficult to procure, in a place where there are a vast number of people with whom the solemnity of an oath has little weight. This you will believe, when I add, that two witnesses were produced in the United States district court, in the month of May last, who swore that Galveston was a considerable and well-built town, with coffee houses, shops, &c. and that the then constituted authorities (Durier, Ducoing, Espanol, &c.) had been appointed and commissioned by Aury. The testimony of the two latter, as well as many other persons now here, will fully refute that falsehood.

I hope you will be pleased to give me some instructions relative to the cruisers, that I may act in a way to meet the views of the executive. I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

BEV. CHEW.

To the hon. William H. Crawford,
secretary of the treasury.

Additional testimony taken in sundry causes depending in the United States district court, for the Louisiana district, on behalf of the United States, against sundry vessels and cargoes from Galvezton.

John Ducoing being duly sworn, the deponent further says, that the establishment at Galvezton was composed, as before stated, by persons of various nations, and that the sole view and object of the persons comprising the said establishment was to capture Spanish vessels and property, without any idea of aiding the revolution in Mexico, or that of any other of the Spanish revolted colonies, as far as this deponent knows and believes. And the deponent says, that during the time he exercised the functions of judge at Galvezton, he had no knowledge or belief in the existence of a Mexican republic or other government, independent of the Spanish government.

The deponent further says, that the government established on the 15th day of April had no connexion whatever with any other government, state, or people. That Galvezton stands on a small island, or rather a small sand bar, a few miles long and broad, and was a desert when taken possession of by Aury, known by the name of Snake Island, without a port or harbor, and no buildings, except a few huts or cabins, probably three or four, made of boards and sails of vessels. And further this deponent saith not.

JOHN DUCOING.

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 7th day of October, 1817.

(Signed)

R. CLAIBORNE, Clerk.

Mr. Raymond Espanol being duly sworn, says, that on the 16th day of March last, this deponent went from this place to Galvezton, in the province of Texas, in the brig Devorador, for the purpose of disposing of merchandize. Aury was acting as governor. This deponent accepted of no office or employment under Aury, nor had he any acquaintance with him; he never took any oath of allegiance to Aury; that on the 5th of April last, Aury and gen. Mina abandoned Galvezton, burned the huts and cabins that were standing, and left no person authorized by them or otherwise, to form a government. After their departure, to wit, on the 15th of April, 1817, the persons then at Galvezton consisted of about thirty or forty in number, including sailors, &c. six of whom assembled on board of the schooner Carmelite, (belonging to Mr. Bartholomew Lafon, late of New Orleans, and engineer in the service of the United States) to wit; Durier, John Ducoing, Pereneau, said B. Lafon, Rousselin, and this deponent, who formed the new government. The proceedings were drawn up and signed by those present, by which certain persons aforesaid took upon themselves offices, namely,

Durier, governor.

John Ducoing, judge of admiralty.

This deponent, notary public and secretary.

Pereneau, major de place.

Rousselin, collector.

At the meeting on the 15th April, there was no paper or document produced, authorizing the same, or giving them power to form a government.

The deponent further says, that the sole object and view of the persons comprising the establishment at Galvezton was, as far as he knows and believes, to capture Spanish property under what they called the Mexican flag, but without an idea of aiding the revolution in Mexico, or that of any of the Spanish revolted colonies; and further, that during the time that this deponent acted as notary public and secretary to the new government at Galvezton, he had no knowledge or belief in the existence of a Mexican republic, or any government in Mexico, independent of the Spanish authorities: further, the deponent says, that the new government established at Galvezton on the 15th of April, 1817, had no connexion whatever with any other nation, state or people.

That Galvezton stands on a small sand bar, a few miles long and broad, and was a desert when taken possession of by Aury—known by the name of Snake Island; without a port or harbor, and no buildings, except three or four cabins built of boards and of sails of vessels.

Further, this deponent says, that some time in the month of May last, when some of the merchandize and vessels from Galvezton were libelled by the Spanish consul in behalf of the Spanish owners, application was made to this deponent to appear before the honorable judge Hall, and to prove that the authorities appointed by the meeting at Galvezton, on the 5th of April last, were appointed and commissioned by Aury. This application was explicitly stated to be on behalf of those interested in the Galvezton establishment, particularly of Mr. Bartholomew Lafon and J. Bte. Laporte, the former of whom, it was known, was indebted to this deponent in the sum of ten or twelve hundred dollars: this deponent refused informing the person by whom the application had been made; that if the deponent appeared he would tell the truth, and should prove that the persons forming the government at Galvezton (after the 15th of April) were not named by Aury. This deponent was not summoned as a witness, though it was known he was in the city, and has continued since to reside here. This deponent says, that this is the true reason why he was not summoned to appear before the judge at the time when Messrs. Rieux and Pereneau appeared.

RICHARD ESPANOL.

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 7th day of October, 1817.

R. CLAIBORNE, Clerk.

Memorial of merchants of New Orleans, to Com. Patterson, of the 28th of July, 1817.

To captain Daniel T. Patterson, commodore of the United States' naval forces on the New-Orleans station.

The memorial of the subscribers, merchants of the city of New Orleans, citizens of the United States, respectfully sets forth:

That your memorialists have extensive dealings with the merchants of La Vera Cruz, Campeachy, and other places in the gulf of Mexico, and usually receive from thence gold and silver, as returns for their adventures, and remittances from their correspondents and debtors there.

That since some part of the Spanish colonies have risen in arms against the royal authorities, vessels carrying the flags of the several new republics of Buenos Ayres, Venezuela and Mexico, pretending to have commissions from the constituted authorities there, to cruise against their enemies, but manned with renegade crews of all nations, have lately commenced the plundering of the vessels of your memorialists, sailing under the flag of the United States, on lawful voyages, and rob them of whatever specie they find on board. The brig Pomona and Free-love, owned by citizens of the United States, resident in this city, have been robbed in this manner; and the brig Charles, also, of and owned in this city, by an American citizen, has been deprived of her papers on the high seas, and thereby exposed to be made lawful prize of by any cruiser, when she was fortunately boarded by the U. S. schooner Firebrand, commanded by Lieut. Cunningham, who conveyed her to Vera Cruz, her destined port. Proofs of all these nefarious acts are hereunto annexed.

That your memorialists, under these circumstances, impeded in their lawful commerce by marauders and pirates, are prevented from sending their vessels to sea, as they cannot insure them but under premiums which would be ruinous, and labor under the intolerable disappointment of not receiving the expected returns for their property, now in the Spanish dominions, and ready to be shipped to them if it could be done with safety.

That the commerce carried on by your memorialists with the Spanish colonies is extremely advantageous to the United States, in as much as it exchanges the productions of this country, and other merchandize, for the precious metals; but their value has now so excited the cupidity of the freebooters of the gulf, secure, as they believe, from resistance and from punishment, that all this valuable commerce will cease, unless the merchant vessels be protected; and that protection is now solicited from you.

Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully entreat that you will give orders to the armed vessels of the United States under your command, to give convoy to the vessels of your memorialists, to and from the Spanish ports in the gulf of Mexico, on such conditions and under such regulations as you may think fit, and the least inconvenient to yourself and the public service.

(Signed)

T. & D. Urquhart,
Richard Relf
Benjamin Story,
J. Longpre,
Amory, Callender & Co.
L. D. de Morant,
Talcot & Bowers,
S. N. Stackhouse,
R. L. Rochelle & Shiff,
David Olivier,
Isaac L. McCoy,
Wm. Wyer,
M. Fortier & Fils,
Cavalier & Fils,
Paul Lanusse,

Pedro Dalhose y Claveria,
Vincente Nolte & Co.
Dutillet & Sagory,
Jno. Bte. Labattut,
Simon Crecully,
L. Millaudon,
G. Dasser,
Wm. Kenner & Co.
Debays & Longer,
J. Brandeger,
Harrod & Ogden,
James Johnson,
J. Tricou & Fils,
Dre. Rouquette,
John Garnier.

New Orleans, 29th July, 1817.

Extract of a letter from capt. Charles Morris, to

the hon. B. W. Crowninshield, secretary of the navy, dated

U. S. FRIGATE CONGRESS,
off Balize, 10th June, 1817.

"As it respects marine operations, when *Aury* left Galvezton with *Mina*. It was understood to be his intention not to return there, but to establish himself at the Santando, and all the public stores and other buildings were destroyed. The Santando having been found altogether unfit for his purpose, he is returning to Galvezton again.

"A temporary government, with the admiralty judge, &c. were left during his absence, to condemn prizes sent in by the privateers. It is stated that the decisions of the judge are dictated by the captors, who will not, unless it appears to suit their convenience, even furnish him any papers on which to form an opinion, or ground his sentence. This is said to have occurred during the late absence of *Aury*; his return may have some good effect upon the proceedings there; but the general character of the population of the place is such, that I am told even those persons concerned in the privateers, when they dispose of their goods there, are unwilling to take specie in payment, fearful of being plundered, but prefer bills, which can be more easily secured. Most of the goods carried there, are introduced into the United States, the more bulky and less valuable regularly through the custom house; the more valuable and the slaves are smuggled in through the numerous inlets to the westward, where the people are but too much disposed to render them every possible assistance.

"Several hundred slaves are now at Galvezton, and persons have gone from New Orleans to purchase them: every exertion will be made to intercept them, but I have little hopes of success."

Extract of a letter from lieutenant commandant John Porter, to the hon. B. W. Crowninshield, secretary of the navy, dated

U. S. BRIG BOXER,
off the Balize, June 28th, 1817.

"From Cape Catouche to La Vera Cruz, the piratical boats are very numerous, and commit their depredations without respect to flag or nation. Should it meet your approbation, sir, it would afford me infinite pleasure to protect our commerce on that coast."

Extract of a letter from John Kerney, Esq. deputy collector of the port of New York, to capt. Samuel Evans, commandant navy yard New York, dated
SEPTEMBER 8th, 1817.

"A brig, said to be a Venezuelan cruiser, called the 'America Free,' Farrero commander, mounting three carriage guns, and manned with seventy-four men, and small arms in proportion, now lies at the quarantine ground.

"It is officially reported to the collector's office of this district, that a number of officers and men landed from said brig at Staten Island, and in a fracas that took place yesterday, between them and the inhabitants on shore, they threatened to demolish or burn a house on said island."

OF AMELIA ISLAND.

Mr. McIntosh to Mr. Crawford.

THE REFUGE, NEAR JEFFERSON,
Camden co. (Georgia) Oct. 30, 1817.

"DEAR SIR—The last letter I had the honor to

address to you, was on the 9th of August; shortly after which the public papers announced that you had left Washington on a visit to Georgia. A few weeks after, I thought it not imprudent to venture out to my swamp plantation on the Satilla, and since, have been very little at St. Mary's. Since gen. M'Gregor, and the greater part of his officers, (some of whom were men of respectable standing in the United States) have left Amelia Island, there has not been so much ingenuity made use of in misrepresenting the conduct and intentions of the invaders of East Florida; and the accounts which are published of them, are, for the most part, generally correct. The present chief, commodore Aury, got the command very much against the inclinations of sheriff Hubbard and colonel Irwin. When he arrived at Fernandina, with his squadron of privateers and prizes, they were entirely without money. He declared, "that if he gave them any aid, it must be on the condition of being made commander in chief; and that as general M'Gregor never had any commission whatever, the flag of the republic must be struck, and that of the Mexican hoisted, and that Fernandina should be considered as a conquest of the Mexican republic, (under which he was commissioned) without its being necessary that any other part of the province of East Florida should be conquered." Hubbard and Irwin reluctantly agreed to the mortifying condition of resigning the command. They were never friendly with the commodore, and endeavored, but in vain, to gain over by intrigue a part of his men. Their own party considerably increasing shortly after, they were several times on the point of coming to open war with Aury and his followers; and under the pretence that Aury's force were composed chiefly of brigand negroes. A few days before Mr. Hubbard's death, (who was called governor without having any power) Aury marched to his quarters with a body of armed men, and obliged him to make such concessions as drove him to an act of intemperance, which soon after terminated his existence.

"Since the death of this gentleman, there has been little or no disturbance among them. But it would appear as if the suspicions of the Frenchman did not die with Hubbard, as none of his privateers have left Fernandina.

"The parties are designated as the American and French; and, I have been assured by individuals belonging to them both, that each are anxiously looking for reinforcements. Aury has a number of Frenchmen, who were, it is said, officers of Bonaparte. They find it their interest, as well as inclination, to support their countryman.

"His great dependence, however, is on about one hundred and thirty brigand negroes—a set of desperate bloody dogs.

"The American party, which are rather more numerous than the other, consist generally of American, English and Irish sailors; but now have no declared leader. Irwin wants either spirit or popularity to assume that character. For my own part, I believe that in point of morals, patriotism and intentions, they are exactly on a par. Aury's blacks, however, make their neighborhood extremely dangerous to a population like ours; and I fear, that if they be not expelled from that place, some unhappy consequences may fall on our country. It is said that they have declared, that if they are in danger of being overpowered,

they will call to their aid every negro within their reach. Indeed, I am told that the language of the slaves in Florida, is already such as is extremely alarming.

"The patriots at Fernandina, had, about ten days ago, an unexpected and strange reinforcement. Twenty half-pay British officers, by the way of Turk's Island, arrived at St. John's river, and, mistaking it for Amelia, a colonel and a couple of others were made prisoners by the Spaniards. The others got safe to Fernandina; but finding that general sir Gregor M'Gregor had abandoned it, they determined immediately on doing so too."

Extract of a letter from Mr. Clark, Collector of St. Mary's, to Mr. Crawford.

Collector's office, St. Mary's, Georgia,
1st November, 1817.

Honorable Wm. H. Crawford,

SIR—I hasten to communicate the following information by letter, received from a gentleman residing on St. John's river, East Florida. The subject, in its bearings, presents considerations of the first importance, as to our political relations with Spain.

The following is extracted from the same:

"PANGE RIVER, St. John's, Oct. 24, 1817.

About sunset a yawl boat arrived at the landing, when seven persons came from her who requested shelter for the night, and some refreshment, stating that they were half-pay British officers of the army and navy, from the island of St. Thomas, on their way to England, via the United States; that they had mistaken this bar for St. Mary's, that they left the schooner in the offing under that impression, and intended to send her a pilot by the return of the boat. After staying all night, they embarked at day light, having procured a negro pilot to conduct them inland to Fernandina.

Col. McDonald, in thanking me for the hospitality he had received, said he felt bound as a gentleman to be candid, and accordingly informed me, that they had lately arrived from London at St. Thomas, in the ship *Two Friends*, with a great number of officers and munitions of war in abundance; that he had with him thirty officers on board the schooner; that he would command in this quarter; that they would have men sufficient and a profusion of every thing necessary for active operations; that they wanted a war with Spain, and that he had power to draw on England for 100,000 pounds sterling; that they would have a fine train of artillery; and that all these supplies were actually on their way or shipping; that a number of gun brigs and sloops would leave England reported for the East Indies, but were bound directly here, and to South America. That they were much disappointed at St. Thomas, on hearing that M'Gregor had left Amelia island; and that the capture of Amelia was known prior to their leaving England."

These officers have a soldier-like and genteel appearance, and all have their commissions; they said "their object in leaving the schooner was to reconnoitre."

They have all since arrived at Fernandina.

I have the honor to remain, &c.

(Signed)

A. CHD. CLARK.

* Capt. Thomas was at St. Mary's with Cockburn, and lieutenant of the ship that fired on gun-boat 183 after the peace.

Extract of a letter from captain John H. Elton, to the hon. R. W. Crowninshield, secretary of the navy, dated

U. S. brig *Saranac*, Cumberland Sound, 2 September 26th, 1817.

"The patriotism of Amelia Island appears to be confined to privateering and plundering. General Aury has the command," &c.

Extract from a letter from captain John H. Elton, to the hon. B. W. Crowninshield, secretary of the navy, dated

U. S. brig *Saranac*, Cumberland Sound, 2 October 10, 1817.

"I have detained a Felucha, or small schooner that sailed from Fernandina, under a commission granted by general M'Gregor, to one John Morrison, for two reasons: first, as a pirate for having captured an English schooner with regular papers, bound from Nassau to Barracoa, called the Brothers; the commission was granted to John Morrison, a citizen of the United States, and who, during the cruise resided at St. Mary's, in Georgia, and the commission was made use of by one Edward Fenner, who likewise captured a Spanish schooner; both are detained for investigation. They have been out some time, and have received provisions from some English and American vessels, they say, gratis. The crew consisted of 18, and I suppose they could not carry provisions for ten days. On the 6th inst. I detained the schooner Hornet; she was commissioned by general M'Gregor, 22d July last, John Smith commander. She cleared out from Philadelphia in August as the Traveller; she received her arms and men in the Delaware Bay, near Lewistown. On the 6th or 7th September, she, for the first time, assumed the name of the Hornet, went off Cuba, made two prizes, the crew mutinized, and in that state was coming in."

"Until I get directions how to consider the island of Amelia, and the people bound to that place, it will be impossible to prevent either slaves or goods being smuggled."

"As most of the patriots there are one day an American citizen, and the next at Fernandina, 'tis easy for them and their agents, to evade all the vigilance we are possessed of. One small Spanish vessel, a prize to a privateer, got into the port before we could board, with seventeen slaves. I would have taken her out immediately, but I considered it neutral ground, and that it was the wish of government not to infringe—fearful of that error, our boats are generally sent out to board at sea."

Extract of a letter from captain John H. Elton, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

United States' brig *Saranac*, Cumberland Sound, Oct. 19, 1817.

"Day before yesterday I sent out to detain a Spanish slave vessel prize to a Mexican privateer: the captain and owner came in to converse with me, and the officer, neglecting to leave any persons in charge, the people from Fernandina went secretly off and landed all the blacks on the outer part of the island."

Extract of a letter from captain John H. Elton, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated United States'

brig *Saranac*, Cumberland Island, November 15, 1817.

Sir—On the 9th instant I sent a boat out to board a vessel from sea. The officer had not been informed to take charge of her, until I had thoroughly overhauled her, if she was a slave vessel. He was at Savannah when the instructions were issued. He returned, and reported it was a slave vessel prize to the Brutus privateer. I despatched a boat to bring her in for examination. The officer, acting sailing master M'Cluny, met her coming in, and, as it was dangerous to leave her to, remained on his oars, to drop alongside. They pretended to give him a rope—they did not, but passed him—he caught by a boat astern. The prize master threatened to fire on him, if he attempted to board; and, when musketry was fired under his stern, it was returned. The alarm was given by the boat. I unfortunately was on Cumberland Point, where only one gun was mounted, from which we fired two shot to bring her to. The first lieutenant fired three from the brig. Two of the five struck her, but she succeeded in getting into Fernandina. Although irritated at the insult, I did not conceive it correct to attempt force, to have her driven from neutral waters, but proceeded as I thought most correct; and the enclosed correspondence has passed between general Aury and myself. 'Tis true, shot was fired at her when close to Amelia, but the officer assures me she was on the northern part of the channel when he attempted to board. If half the depth of water is allowed us she was on our side. I have informed you that the channel over the bar was on their side, or to the southward of a direct line drawn between the islands to the sea. I never have been instructed on that head, but I really think they hold the island by too precarious a tenure, to be yet so very tenacious of their rights. A verbal answer was returned, at first to my application, that they would protect her. Not knowing how the United States wished to view these people, I did not think proper to attempt to destroy the establishment, but sent out lieutenant commandant E. R. McCall, to bring back the privateer Jupiter, to remain as a pledge until I heard from government. It has excited considerable feeling, and no other privateers attempted to sail. The slave vessel was brought over last night, but every thing but slaves, and a small quantity of rice, was taken from her, and she appeared in a very filthy state. The prize master was not sent, neither any of the prize crew. I have written for the former—whether he will be sent I cannot vouch. Yet as retribution could so soon be had, if force was authorized, and wishing not to interrupt harmony, if it is wished by the United States, I have released the privateer Jupiter; and the High Flyer sailed immediately on a cruise.

A prior correspondence took place, as regarded captain Farnham. It was represented to me that he was a citizen, and only went there to trade. It appears he had been in the service of the patriots for some time. The application was, of course, dropped.

I shall send the vessel to Savannah for adjudication, and if the prize master is found, shall send him also. He is an old offender, by the name of Austin.

The situation of Amelia is, by no means, a quiet one. Those at present there, act very strangely. There has been a French party and

an English party—they have been in constant alarm of each. The French party is now trying as many of the English party as possible, and strangely are making a Botany Bay of the United States, as you will perceive by the proclamation enclosed. So much discontent prevails, that I should not be surprised to see them engaged in civil war. The slave vessels that have hitherto entered Fernandina, I have no doubt have smuggled all their slaves to the United States. Small boats are permitted to pass and repass; as they are rowed by slaves, they can smuggle one or two at a time without detection. Another mode of smuggling is, that the law makes no provision how to consider boats of less than five tons. I sent one of that description to the collector. She was filled with provisions and naval stores from Savannah to Amelia—she had no clearance—the law requires none; but from a passenger, on board, I had no doubt, in my own mind, it was to fit out a former slave vessel as a privateer. She was released by the collector. Am I to stop arms, ammunition, &c. bound from the United States to Fernandina, if not cleared as such? They term them boxes of merchandise very frequently, and sometimes have more than they clear out.

Extract of a letter from Thomas Wayne, Esquire, purser on board the United States brig Saranac, St. Mary's river, dated, September 27, 1817, to Benjamin Homans.

* On our arrival here, we found general M'Gregor in command of Amelia. A few days afterwards he decamped, and embarked on board the privateer M'Gregor, formerly the St. Joseph. The command of the Island devolved on colonel Irwin an American, who was in a few days, attacked by the Spaniards. After an engagement of forty-eight hours which was all smoke, it terminated without the loss of a single life, and the Spaniards, retreated.

The noted Woodbine, of infamous memory, arrived here from Nassau, with a view, as was said, to join the patriots; but his friend, M'Gregor, having left the cause, he was disappointed, and embarked with M'Gregor, who sailed a few days since for Nassau, to commence some new expedition, which, it is generally supposed, will be to the Bay of Espirito Santo, or Bay of Tampa, in latitude 28° 15' N. and longitude 76° 30' W. This is an extensive Bay, and capable of admitting ships of any size, contiguous to which are the finest lands in East Florida, which Woodbine pretends belong to him, by virtue of a grant from the Indians. He says, he has surveyed the whole of the Gulf of Mexico, and Tampa Bay is the only place into which large ships can enter.

The patriots of Amelia are a most heterogeneous set, consisting of all countries and languages, except Spanish Americans. Amongst them may be found, Americans, French Irish, Scotch, English, Dutch, Germans, Haytians Petions, &c. all come ostensibly to aid the cause of the patriots of South America; but their real motive is, no doubt, to prey upon whom they can. Should they continue in Amelia Island, the place will become a second Barrataria.

At this time the government consists of Mons. Aury who is commander in chief of the naval and military forces; and Ruggles Hubbard, formerly high sheriff of New-York, is the civil governor.

A number of prizes of considerable value,

have been brought into Amelia by Aury's squadron.

It appears to be the anxious wish of the inhabitants, of the opposite side of the river, to be under the American government, as they are not now secure from either party.

Extracts of letters from Robert M. Harrison esquire, Consul of the United States at the Island of St. Thomas, to the Secretary of State.

St. Thomas, 20th April, 1817.

The increasing number of the American seamen, whose ill success in the privateers and pirates that infest those seas, induces them to relinquish those unprofitable pursuits, whenever an opportunity offers, and who almost universally swarm to this Island to claim my protection and support, so that they daily almost surround my door, renders it again my duty to request instructions from the department of state. I have not yet extended to such men any more than a partial assistance, though many of them are in the greatest possible distress, considering that the expenditure of such large sums of money might be considered as advancing beyond the bounds of my duty. It is much to be regretted that the disappointment sustained by so great a number of our seamen should not be sufficient to deter others from embarking in such enterprises.

St. Thomas, 30th May, 1817.

Numbers of American vessels, originally bound to the Spanish main, where their cargoes could have been disposed of to great advantage, have been deterred from a prosecution of their voyage, from a dread of the piratical cruizers that infest those seas, and have been actually obliged to sacrifice their property here, whilst English vessels prosecute the trade in perfect safety, merely from the circumstance of there being a few British vessels of war in the West India seas. The presence of one of our smallest armed vessels would completely awe those marauders, and enable our merchant vessels to prosecute a legal trade in safety. Her presence, (of the Boxer,) in the neighborhood would be attended with the most salutary effects.

NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

FIRST SESSION—FIFTEENTH CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Land Claims in Tennessee.

Monday Dec. 29—Mr. Campbell presented the memorial of the legislature of Tennessee on the subject of the unsatisfied claims for land in that state, derived under the authority of the state of North Carolina, which was read and ordered to be printed.

Augmentation of militia pay.

Mr. Tait offered the following motion for consideration:

Resolved, That the committee on the militia be instructed to inquire into the expediency of augmenting the pay of the militia when called into the service of the United States.

Virginia Military Land Warrants.

The senate resumed the consideration of the bill to extend the time of locating Virginia milita-

ry land warrants, &c. and the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Land Titles in Tennessee.

The bill to authorise the state of Tennessee to issue grants, and perfect titles on certain entries and locations of lands therein described, was considered in committee of the whole, and then, on motion of Mr. Morrow, referred to a select committee composed of Messrs. Campbell, Stokes, Macon, Williams of Tennessee, and Morrow.

Treaty of Ghent—Restitution of slaves.

A message was received from the president of the United States, by his private secretary, communicating the following report, in compliance with the senate's resolution of the 16th inst.

"Department of State, Dec. 24, 1817.

The secretary of state, to whom has been referred the resolution of the senate of the 16th inst. requesting information touching the execution of so much of the first article of the treaty of Ghent, as relates to the restitution of slaves, which has not heretofore been communicated, has the honor to report to the president, that no answer has been received from the British government to the proposal made by order of the late president, on the 17th September, 1816, that the question upon the different construction given by the respective governments to that article should be referred to the decision of some friendly sovereign; that the late minister of the United States in England, before his departure from London, renewed the request for an answer, and that the present minister at the same court has been instructed to invite again the attention of the British government to the subject. All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS."

The message and report were ordered to be printed.

Mint Establishment.

The bill for continuing the mint establishment at Philadelphia, was read the third time, as amended, passed, and sent to the house of representatives for concurrence in the amendments. And the senate adjourned.

Duties on Salt—drawback on vessels engaged in the

Fisheries, &c.

Dec. 30.—The president of the senate communicated, from the secretary of the treasury, in obedience to a resolution of the senate of the 24th inst. a statement of the amount of duties on imported salt, during the years 1815, 1816, and 1817, and a statement for the same years, of the amount of drawbacks paid to vessels employed in the fisheries, and on pickled fish exported; which being read:—

Mr. Smith, moved that the said statement be referred to the committee on finance, with instructions to inquire into the expediency of repealing the law laying the duty on salt. This motion lies on the table.

Pay of the Militia.

The resolution submitted yesterday by Mr. Tait, to instruct the committee on the militia to inquire into the expediency of augmenting the pay of the militia when called into the service of the United States, was taken up, and agreed to without opposition.

The following bills were received from the house of representatives, and severally passed to a second reading, viz:

A bill for establishing additional land offices in the Missouri territory.

A bill to remit the duties on a painting presented to the Pennsylvania hospital; and

A bill to provide for certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolutionary army.

Virginia Military Land Warrants.

The engrossed bill to extend the time for locating Virginia military land warrants was read the third time, and the blanks therein filled so as to make the further time allowed for locations two years, and the time for returning copies of the surveys to the land office three years; and the bill was passed, and sent to the house of representatives for concurrence.

Cultivation of the Vine

On motion of Mr. Daggett,

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before the senate a statement of the proceedings which may have been had under the act of congress, passed the 3d of March, 1817, entitled "an act to set apart and dispose of certain public lands, for the encouragement of the cultivation of the vine and olive." Also, that the president be requested to give to the senate, such information as he may possess in relation to any location of land, or settlement made by any individuals under the aforesaid act.

After some other business of only individual importance the senate adjourned.

The Centre Building of the Capitol

Dec. 31.—Mr. Burrill, submitted the following motion for consideration:

Resolved, That the committee on the district of Columbia be instructed to inquire into the expediency of commencing the erection of the centre building of the capitol, and of making provision for the speedy completion thereof. That said committee be also instructed to inquire whether suitable apartments can be had in the capitol for the reception and accommodation of the library of congress; and, in case such apartments cannot be had there, to inquire into the expediency of purchasing or erecting a convenient building for the library.

Protection of Slaves.

Mr. Burrill, also submitted for consideration the following motion:

Resolved, That the committee to whom was referred the petition of the committee of the yearly meeting of the Society of Friends at Baltimore, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the laws of the United States on the subject of the African slave trade, as more effectually to prevent said trade from being carried on by citizens of the United States, under foreign flags; and also into the expediency of the United States taking measures, in concert with other nations, for the entire abolition of said trade.

Mr. Tait, gave notice, that on Friday next he should ask leave to introduce a bill, in addition to an act "making an appropriation for repairing certain roads therein described."

Convention of the United States.

Mr. Sanford, gave notice that he should on Friday move a resolution for the publication of the journal of proceedings of the convention of the United States, now remaining in the office of the secretary of state.

The resolutions yesterday offered, were taken up and agreed to.

The bill to provide for certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolutionary war; the bill to remit the duties on the painting presented by Mr. West to the Pennsylvania hospital; and the bill for establishing additional land offices in the Missouri territory, were severally read a second time and committed.

And the senate adjourned to Friday.

Jan. 2. Mr. Leake, offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the several laws relative to the sale of public lands.

Convention of the United States.

Agreeably to notice, Mr. Sanford, having obtained leave, introduced a joint resolution, directing that the journal of the convention which formed the present constitution of the United States, now remaining in the office of the secretary of state; and all acts and proceedings of that convention, which are in the possession of the government of the United States, be published under the direction of the secretary of state.

The resolution was twice read by unanimous consent, and committed to Messrs. Sanford, King, Mason, Eppes, and Tait.

Public Roads.

Mr. Tait, agreeably to notice, leave being obtained, introduced a bill in addition to the "Act making appropriation for repairing certain roads therein described." [Appropriating—dollars for the purpose of repairing and keeping in repair the road from Fort Hawkins to Fort Stodert.]

The bill was read and passed to a second reading.

Prohibition of the Slave Trade

Mr. Burrill's motion, submitted on Wednesday last, to inquire into the expediency of amending the laws prohibiting the African slave trade, and of taking measures, in concert with other nations for its entire abolition, was taken up, and (after some interesting debate which will be sketched in our next paper) postponed the resolution to Monday.

The Centre Building of the Capitol.

Mr. Burrill's resolution of Wednesday last, was taken up and agreed to.

Several bills for the relief of individuals were considered, and rejected. And the senate adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Recovery of Fugitives from Justice, &c.

Dec. 29.—Mr. Pindall, from the committee to whom the subject had been referred, reported a bill to amend the act respecting the recovery of fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters.

The bill was twice read and committed.

Who have held Offices.

A message was received from the president of the United States, by Mr. J. J. Monroe, his private secretary, transmitting, in compliance with a resolution of the house, of the 12th instant, the following report:

"Department of State, Dec. 26th, 1817.

The resolution of the house of representatives of the 12th of this month, requesting the president to communicate to that house whether any and which of the representatives named in the list thereto annexed have held offices since the 4th of March last, designating the offices, the time of appointment and acceptance, and whether they were at that time so held, or when they had been resigned, having been referred to this department, the secretary has the honor respectfully to report to the president as follows:

John Holmes, of Massachusetts, commissioner under the 4th article of the treaty of Ghent; appointed 16th of February, 1816; resigned 24th November, 1817.

Samuel Herrick, of Ohio, attorney of the United States; appointed 19th December 1810, resigned 29th November, 1817.

Daniel Cruger, of New York, post-master at Bath; appointed 29th of June, 1815; resigned 1st December, 1817.

Elias Earle, of South Carolina, post-master at Centerville; appointed in April, 1815; resigned 12th June, 1817.

Thomas H. Hubbard, of New York, post-master at Hamilton; appointed 11th March, 1813; resigned 2nd October, 1817.

Samuel C. Crafts, of Vermont, principal assessor for the sixth collection district; appointed 4th of January, 1815; resigned 5th June, 1817.

George Robertson, of Kentucky, principal assessor for the seventh collection district; appointed 4th of January, 1815; resigned 5th June, 1817.

George Mumford, of North Carolina, principal assessor for the tenth collection district. No resignation has been received from Mr. Mumford.

Levi Barber, of Ohio, receiver of public monies at Marietta; appointed 3d of March, 1817; resigned 1st December, 1817.

John P. Parrott, of New-Hampshire, naval officer for the district of Portsmouth; appointed 23d April, 1816; resigned 15th November, 1817.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS."

Referred to the committee of elections.

Brevet Officers.

The speaker laid before the house a report from the secretary of War, made in pursuance of a resolution of the house, embracing a list of all officers who held brevet rank in the army at the close of the late war, their lineal rank at the time of receiving the brevet; and a list of officers of the present army, who hold brevet rank higher than their lineal rank, and the number and grade of such officers as receive, in virtue of their brevet rank, greater pay or emoluments than they would otherwise be entitled to by law; which report was ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

American and Foreign Tonnage Imports and Exports.

On motion of Mr. Pitkin, it was

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury be directed to lay before the house a statement of American and foreign tonnage employed in the foreign trade of the United States, in the years 1815, 1816, and as far as practicable in 1817, distinguishing the nations to whom the foreign tonnage belonged. Also, a statement of American and British tonnage employed in the trade between the United States and the British dominions in Europe, for each of said years, distinguishing the amount employed between the United States and the

united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the other British European dominions.

That the secretary of the treasury be also directed to lay before the house, a statement shewing the amount of British tonnage in trade between the United States and the British West Indies, and between the United States and the British North American Colonies, in 1815, 1816, and 1817, containing the amount entered in and cleared from the American ports, in each of said years.

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury be directed to lay before the house a statement shewing the quantity of sugar, coffee, rum, molasses, and cocoa, imported into, and exported from, the United States, in each of the years 1815, 1816, and 1817, together with the countries and places from whence the same were imported, and the quantity imported from each country or place;

In submitting his motion Mr. Pitkin, briefly remarked on the importance of the information which the resolutions called for, and the necessity there was for the house being in possession of it, particularly in certain interesting questions which would come before the house on the subject of trade and navigation.

Exchange of Land with the Indians.

Mr. Poindexter, offered the following motion:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the president of the United States to exchange with the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians, or either of them, lands belonging to the United States, west of the Mississippi, for lands now in the possession and occupancy of said tribes of Indians, or either of them.

On motion of Mr. Cobb, the resolution was amended by including therein the "Creek and Cherokee" Indians, whose territory, within the limits of Georgia, Mr. Cobb thought it equally important, should be obtained by the United States. In this shape, and after, on motion of Mr. Taylor, referring the inquiry to the committee on the public lands, instead of a select committee, the resolution was agreed to.

Allen's Silvered Sheep-skin.

The speaker laid before the house, a letter from William Allen, accompanied by a present to the house of a copy of the president's message, printed on silvered sheep-skin for the manufacture of which he has obtained a patent.

Rules of the House amended.

The house resumed the consideration of the motion submitted by Mr. Wendover, of New York, for so amending the rules and orders of the house that no more than three bills shall be referred to the same committee of the whole. [In support of this motion, Mr. W. made a statement of the practice of the house under the present rules, inferring from it that the practice of referring so many bills to one committee tended to the procrastination of business, and operated frequently as a denial of a consideration of the subject of the bills so referred.] After some further remarks from Mr. Bassett and Mr. Taylor, the motion was agreed to.

Land Office in Missouri Territory.

The engrossed bill for making provision by law for the establishment of additional land offices in the Missouri Territory, was read a third time, passed and sent to the senate.

Adjourned.

Dec. 30.—Several reports were made by committees, upon private claims and petitions.

Mr. H. Nelson, from the committee of the judiciary, reported a bill providing for the due execution of the laws of the United States within the state of Mississippi; and the bill was twice read and committed.

The Act of Neutrality.

Mr. Miller, of South Carolina, submitted for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of so amending the fourth section of the act passed on the 3d of March, 1817, entitled "An act more effectually to preserve the neutral relations of the United States," as to embrace within the provisions thereof the armed vessels of the governments at peace with the United States, and at war with any colony, district or people with whom the United States are or may be at peace.

This produced some discussion, in which the mover, Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Holmes of Mass. Mr. Edwards of N. C. took part. The question to lay the resolution on the table was decided in the affirmative.

The bill from the senate, for extending the time for locating Virginia military land warrants, was twice read; and on motion of Mr. Mercer, was referred to a select committee to whom a correlative inquiry has been already referred.

Map of the Military Bounty Land.

Yesterday Mr. Taylor, of N. V. introduced a resolution requiring the commissioner of the general land office, to cause to be engraved, a plate of the surveyor general's map of the military bounty land of the Illinois territory, and cause to be printed 600 copies, subject to the future disposition of Congress, for the purpose of acquainting the soldier at a small expense, of the value of his land, and thereby shield him from the speculator. The resolution was engrossed, after some discussion, for a third reading, by a majority of 11 votes. The resolution being read a third time this day and the question being put upon its passage, it was negatived by a large majority.

Revenue of the District of Columbia.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from the secretary of the treasury, communicating, in obedience to a resolution of the house, a statement of the receipts into the treasury from imports and other taxes, within the district of Columbia, since the year 1801; also the amount of registered tonnage within the said district, which was referred to the committee on the District of Columbia.

African Slave Trade.

Mr. Mercer offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee to whom was referred the memorial of the American Colonization Society, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making such further alterations in the laws prohibiting the citizens of the United States from engaging in the African slave trade, as may more effectually secure their intended operation; and that the said committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Agreed to without opposition.

Commutation Bill.

The house on motion of Mr. Johnson, of Ky.

resumed the consideration of the bill to commute the bounty lands of the soldiers of the late army; the question being on concurring with the amendments reported to the house by the committee of the whole—

Mr. Robertson, of Lou. proposed an amendment which provides that every soldier on surrendering his warrant at the Land Office to be cancelled, receive a certificate of the quantity of land surrendered, and where patents have issued the patentee to surrender his patent to the commissary of the general land office within six months after the passage of this act in order to avail himself of the provisions thereof, and deposit at the same time an affidavit that he has not transferred or sold such patent to any person whatever, and receive a certificate therefor: and for these certificates such soldier or his agent shall receive certificates of stock, bearing an interest of six per cent. per annum, redeemable at the pleasure of government or within five years, at the rate of one dollar per acre for the land for which the warrant or patent has been surrendered, &c.

Mr. R. offered some remarks in support of his proposed amendment.

The amendments having been read, it was ordered, on motion of Mr. Johnson of Ky. that the amendments be printed and the whole subject lie on the table.

Alexandria Insurance Society.

The bill to incorporate the Columbian Insurance Society of Alexandria, passed through a committee of the whole, Mr. Tucker in the chair, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday.

Mr. Robertson, of Lou. made a motion to go into committee of the whole on the expatriation bill which was negatived.

Georgia Militia Claims.

On motion of Mr. Cobb, of Geo. the house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Pitkin in the chair, on the bill providing for the payment of the claims of certain detachments of the militia of Georgia for services in defence of that state in the years 1793 and 1794.

Mr. Cobb, in a speech of half an hour's length, and of much perspicuity and force, explained the nature of the claims, and shewed their foundation in authority derived from the executive of the United States, in pursuance of which the militia in question had been called into service by the executive of Georgia, in 1793 and 1794. Mr. C. took an interesting view of the trials and perils of those subject to Indian depredations and hostility at that day, and paid a just tribute to their bravery and patriotism. Sustaining himself, as he proceeded, by official documents. Mr. C. exhibited the authority under which the governor of Georgia had acted at every step; shewed that the contractor in Georgia, under the direction of the United States' agent, had furnished supplies to all the troops so called out, which had been paid for, without objection, by the United States. He shewed also that the militia of the North-Western Territory, of North Carolina and of South Carolina, called out under similar circumstances, had long ago been paid, deducting from all these circumstances, the strongest argument in favor of the liquidation of the claims now under consideration. Mr. C. concluded his speech by moving to fill the blank in the bill

(for the amount to be appropriated) with the sum of 142,335 dollars and 29 cents, being the amount at which the accounts had been estimated, some years ago, from returns made to the department of war.

Mr. Storrs, with a view of giving time for further investigation of the grounds of this claim, moved that the committee rise.

Which was agreed to; and the committee obtained leave to sit again.

On motion of Mr. Bassett, but at the instance of Mr. Claggett the house agreed to reconsider the report of the committee of pensions (yesterday concurred in) unfavorable to the petition of James Burceil; and the report was ordered to lie on the table.

And the house adjourned.

Titles of Nobility.

Dec. 31.—Mr. Edwards offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before this house information of the number of states which have ratified the 13th article of the amendments to the constitution of the United States, proposed at the second session of the 11th congress, [prohibiting any citizen of the United States from accepting or retaining any title of nobility, pension, office or emolument, without the consent of congress, from any foreign prince or power, &c.]

Mr. Edwards stated, that his motion was induced by some doubts whether the article referred to had been ratified by a sufficient number of the states, to make it a part of the constitution, although it appeared as such, he perceived, in the copies printed for the use of the members of the house; and it was desirable that a fact so important should be placed beyond question. The motion was agreed to without opposition.

Publication of the Laws of the U. S.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. submitted a joint resolution to authorize the publication of the laws of the United States within the several states and territories of the United States (authorizing the publication in any number of newspapers deemed proper, not exceeding six); which was twice read, and referred to the committee on the judiciary.

Post Roads.

On motion of Mr. Peter, it was

Resolved, That the committee on post offices and post roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post road from Georgetown, in the district of Columbia, to the cross roads, Seneca Mills, Johnson's Furnace, New Market, and Town of Liberty, in Maryland.

On motion of Mr. Walker, of Ky. a like instruction was given to the committee on post offices and post roads, to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from Louisville in Kentucky, by Woodsonville, Glasgow, Birksville, and Seventy-Six, to Monticello, in the same state.

Reservation of gold and silver Mines.

On motion of Mr. Storrs, it was

Resolved, That the committee on public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the introduction, into all patents hereafter to be issued for lands sold or

granted by the United States, of a reservation to the use of the United States of all gold and silver mines.

Arms and Military Stores.

On motion of Mr. Huntington, it was

Resolved, That the secretary of war be directed to lay before this house a return of the arms and military stores furnished to the respective states under the provisions of the law of 1808, appropriating annually the sum of 200,000 dollars "for furnishing arms and military equipments to the whole body of the militia of the United States," and also to inform this house on what principle the distribution hath been made.

Official State Papers free of Postage.

On motion of Mr. Huntington, also, it was

Resolved, That the committee on post offices and post roads be instructed to take into consideration the expediency of providing by law to authorize the governors of states and territories, for the time being, to receive and transmit, thro' the post offices, all official communications free of postage.

Execution of the laws in Mississippi.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Pitkin in the chair, on the bill to provide for the due execution of the laws of the United States in the state of Mississippi.

To that provision of the bill which fixes the salary of the district judge, as reported by the judiciary committee, Mr. Poindexter objected, and entered into several statements, exhibiting the arduous duties which would devolve on that officer, and the probable amount of his necessary expenses, to show that the provision proposed for him in the bill, was inadequate; and that the subject might be again examined, and more correctly settled by the select committee, who could do so with more ease and facility than could be done in the committee of the whole house. Mr. P. moved that the committee rise and report progress.

The committee of the whole then rose and reported progress—and on the suggestion of Mr. Poindexter, was refused leave to sit again, and, on his motion, the bill was then recommitted to the committee on the judiciary.

After refusing successively to take up the bill to authorize expatriation, and the bill respecting the claims of the state of Georgia for militia services rendered in 1792 and 1793—

The house went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Wilkin in the chair, on the bill to prescribe the effect certain records and judicial proceedings of the courts of each state, shall have in each state, and in the courts of the United States.

The bill received some amendments, and considerable discussion took place on its details.

On motion of Mr. Clay the committee rose, reported progress and obtained leave to sit again.

Adjourned to Friday.

MEXICO.

GENERAL MINA SAFE. The following intelligence has been received in this city, by a gentleman of high respectability, from his correspondents at Nachitoches, Louisiana. From the respectability of the writers of the letters, the gentleman here who received them entertains no doubt of the correctness of the information, and of the safety of MINA.

Nachitoches, November 30.

"It has been reported by several persons who have arrived here for some weeks past from St.

Antonio and its vicinity, that general Mina had been singularly successful without stating particulars, until yesterday a Spaniard arrived direct from St. Antonio who says the news was received there that Santillo, Montelrey and Montclover were in possession of Mina, that he had in detail beaten and nearly destroyed three divisions of the royal army, that the inhabitants were generally joining them; and that very little opposition in future was expected to be made him in the governor generalship of Arrodonda, formerly Salcedo. This is generally believed here—as soon as further particulars are received I will inform you of them."

Another letter of the 26th November, from very respectable authority, states, from an intelligent Spaniard's information, "general Mina, it is generally believed, has succeeded in every engagement he has had, and was on his return towards the sea coast with a large army collected from the armies of those republican generals from the interior, with whom he succeeded in forming a junction."

Another letter of 3d December says, "We have had recent news from general Mina's operations—the last very favorable. He had out-generaled and beat all the detachments sent against him; he had formed a junction with some of the chiefs of the revolution. His force augmenting in a rapid progression, and some are of opinion that he is making a retrograde march to take possession of the adjacent provinces, in order to facilitate communication with the United States, and at all events to keep a door open. This has arisen from a report of a citizen of St. Antonio, who arrived lately from there, and says orders had been given to all the troops, citizens, and militia, to keep themselves in readiness to march against the rebel Mina, who was expected to see them to the Colonia Santander (the province where he disembarked in) and in which the sea ports Tampico and Alama are formed.

From Buenos Ayres—Boston, Dec. 29.—Captain Smith arrived at Portsmouth from Buenos Ayres, informs that the Director Pueyreden had retired from the government, and another person was elected president for six months in his stead—that prizes to the patriot privateers were arriving there daily, several of them of great value. The Portuguese forces were still besieged in Monte Video by general Artegas, the patriot commander, and were said to be much distressed for provisions.

AMELIA ISLAND

On the 1st Dec. the new provisional legislature of the Floridas assembled at Amelia Island, and after being sworn faithfully to discharge the duties for which they were elected, proceeded to ballot for a president, when the choice fell upon colonel Irwin, who accepted the appointment. A weekly newspaper, entitled the "Telegraph of the Floridas," has been established at Amelia Island, for the purpose of giving publicity to the acts of the provisional legislature, and to such other information as may be interesting and important to the welfare of the people in that quarter.

Despatches received from the commander of the forces of the United States, on our southern border, have brought official information of the occupation of Amelia island, on the 24th ult. by the United States' troops under the command of Col. Bankhead, co-operating with the naval force on that station, under the command of captain Henley.